

# MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE  
AND LOCATION: September 9, 2009  
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Dave Williams, Rachel Cox, Darwin George,  
Gary Gray, Todd Royal, Margy Bonner, Catherine Grott

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director  
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent  
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent  
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent  
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner

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## I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

### A. INTRODUCTIONS

Sam McDonald of Wendy's, Chuck Barthuly, Andrew Billstein and Alex Tommerup of the Better Billings Foundation

### B. APPROVAL OF THE August 4th, 2009 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson requested a motion to approve the August 4, 2009 minutes.  
*Board member Margy Bonner made a motion to accept the minutes. Board member Rachel Cox seconded. On a voice vote, motion was accepted unanimously.*

### C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions

## II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Director Mike Whitaker said this morning's Community Conversation held at Faith Chapel went well. He said Board member Darwin George also attended the meeting and asked Darwin to comment on the meeting. Mr. George said the moderator was great, the topics were good, there was a large crowd with several city officials but he would have liked to have seen more of the public in attendance.
- Mr. Whitaker said the contract for the Pioneer Park Master Plan Update will go before City Council for approval on September 14<sup>th</sup>. He said once that is approved the department will move forward on updating that plan.

- Mr. Whitaker said the Skyview Ridge Park Master Plan concept will be going before City Council to get approval on September 14<sup>th</sup> also.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. American Legion Hall of Fame Plaque Location:**

The Board continued their discussion from the last meeting on the location of the American Legion Hall of Fame Plaque donated by Sam McDonald of Wendy's. The Board and staff had concerns that the requested location by Mr. McDonald was in line of pedestrian traffic and could cause congestion in that area. The board voted to have the plaque placed in a different location. Mr. McDonald present at today's meeting stated that he along with the Billings Mustangs had agreed to place the plaque behind the press box wall about three years ago and was unhappy with the new location the Board had now chosen. The Board along with staff stated that they were not aware of this agreement with the Mustangs nor did they approve the Mustangs location to have their plaque within the same location but on the opposite side along the administration building.

The Board continued talking about the Wendy's logo on the plaque as advertisement and whether that would interfere with the bonds on the stadium. Pat Weber from the Finance department was at the meeting to answer questions and informed the board that the Wendy's logo would not count as advertisement nor interfere with the bonds.

The Board decided to take action on Mr. McDonald request to move the plaque back to its original location behind the press box wall. *Board member Gary Gray made a motion to approve Sam McDonald's request to put the plaque in Mr. McDonald's requested location. Board member Dave Williams seconded. On a 5-3 vote the motion was approved. Board members Tom Iverson, Margy Bonner and Catherine Grott disapproved.*

#### **B. Heights Pool Project:**

Chuck Barthuly presented a revised copy of the Funding and Development Agreement with the city. (A copy of the agreement was included in the board packet) He noted the changes of the agreement show the City as now leasing the land to the Better Billings Association (BBF) and the BBF building, owning and operating the aquatic center. Mr. Barthuly expressed in the best interest of both parties that building the center privately would be the "*best and more inexpensive way*".

Mr. Barthuly presented a summary copy of the Billings Montana Aquatic Center Feasibility Study. He emphasized that the study shows the need and support for an aquatic facility within the Billings area. He discussed the proposed amenities for the design would include: zero depth entry, leisure pool, large play structure,

toddler area, wave generator, water slides, concession area, bathhouse, family bathrooms, outdoor showers, office, water basketball area, parking and current channel. He said these amenities are based on the feasible study. Board member Catherine Grott asked if there was enough parking to accommodate the maximum capacity. Mr. Barthuly said yes; they have approached the cities Engineering Department and they are comfortable with amount of parking that has been proposed. Ms. Grott asked when the pool season would be. Mr. Barthuly said it would be similar to how the city runs their pools. Board member Rachel Cox asked how many children the larger pool area could accommodate. Mr. Barthuly said 850 based on surface area of the water and decking.

Mr. Barthuly and Alex Billstein also addressed issue of a neighborhood park at High Sierra. Mr. Billstein presented several drawings tying together the aquatic center and the neighborhood park.

Mr. Barthuly asked for the Board's recommendation to bring their proposal to the council work session.

***Board member Dave Williams recommended to move forward on the updated aquatic proposal/concept as presented by the Better Billings Foundation to a City Council work session. Board member Gary Gray seconded. All were in favor and motion passed.***

Towards the end of the meeting Board member Catherine Grott asked if the motion to move ahead with the pool was separate and apart from the Funding and Development agreement and did the Board need to make some sort of recommendation. Mr. Whitaker said they had just recently received the agreement and he would bring it back to the board for discussion after it had been reviewed by City staff.

#### **C. Dog Park Update:**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis said a public meeting on the updated master plan for High Sierra Park was held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. He said about thirty people attended and their response was very positive and favorable to having a dog park at that location.

Mr. Jarvis said the wetland determination study is done for Riverfront Park. The results show some wetlands in the area designated for the dog park but they are small. Mr. Jarvis said he plans to meet with the Core of Engineers to show them the study and get further guidance from them.

Mr. Jarvis said the Dog Park Committee is working to start a fundraising campaign. They hope to meet again in September to finalize plans for a kick off campaign to be held sometime in October. He said they hope to have a park in the spring if fundraising goes well.

Mr. Jarvis said they are still in negotiations with the county on possible land for their third location site.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. High Sierra Park Master Plan Update:**

Mr. Jarvis made a proposal to the Board for them to recommend sending the updated High Sierra Park Master Plan, which includes eight acres for a Dog Park to the City Council. *Board member Margy Bonner moved to send the updated High Sierra Park Master Plan to City Council. Board member Gary Gray seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.*

### **B. Mountain Pine Beetle:**

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the mountain pine beetle.

Concerns were reflected on the amount of damage the beetle can and is causing within the city and the state. Mr. Thompson said the department has removed nine infested pine trees; one at Rose, six at Walsh, one at Edgerton and one at the cemetery. He said they are looking into prevention options to protect the remaining pine trees throughout the city parks.

## **VI. DIVISION UPDATES**

### **A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:**

- Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin said he is working on finalizing summer reports and should have them by next month's meeting.
- He said rough figures show swimming pools revenue down \$8,400 and attendance down 13,000.
- Mr. Fedin said they are working on presenting at next month's meeting a list of all of the fees and charges we have in our department and recommend those changes to City Council for the next year.
- Mr. Fedin said they should have the buses next month. He said one of the buses blew out an engine on its way up here and had to have a brand new one put in.
- Mr. Fedin said this is the biggest year in sound stage rentals, over 55.

### **B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:**

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson report is the Mountain Pine Beetle.

### **C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:**

No report

**D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:**  
Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller updated report was included in the board packet.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**